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07th Expansion presents Welcome to Rokkenjima. WHEN THEY CRY2

Episode 7:
Requiem of the golden witch

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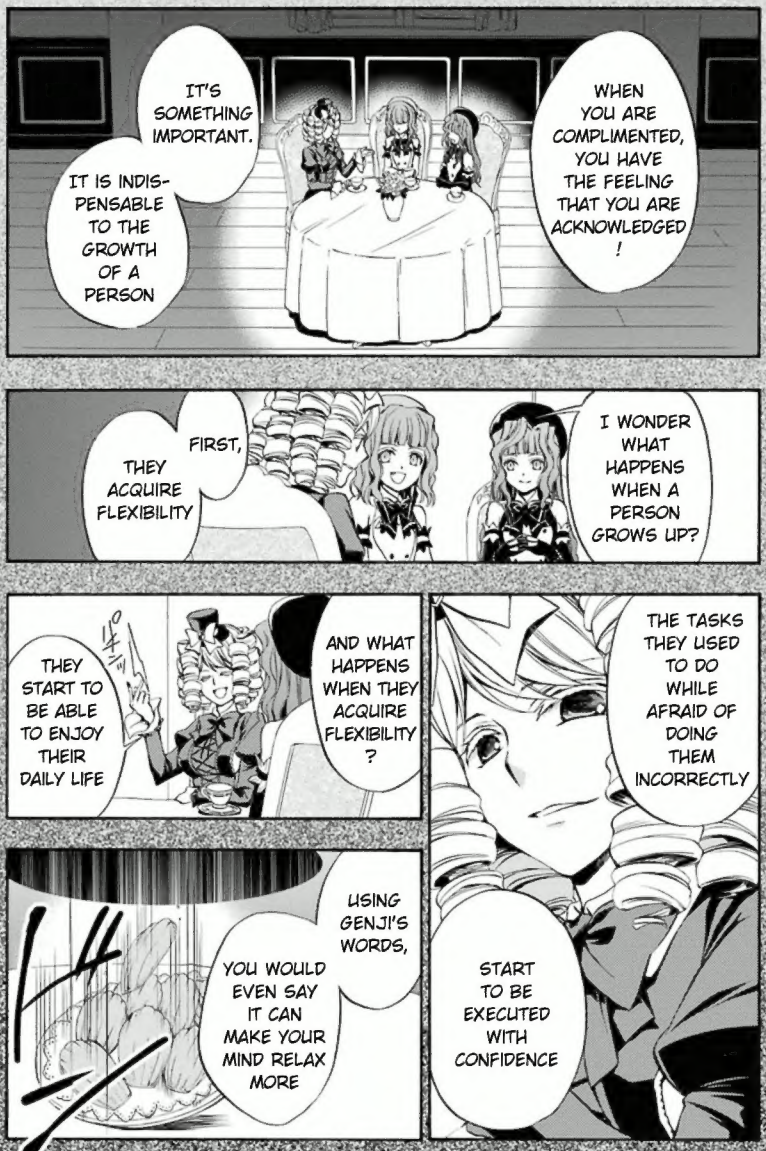
作画 水野英多


WHEN YOU ARE COMPLIMENTED, YOU HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU ARE ACKNOWLEDGED!
IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE GROWTH OF A PERSON
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON GROWS UP?
FIRST, THEY ACQUIRE FLEXIBILITY
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY ACQUIRE FLEXIBILITY?
THEY START TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY THEIR DAILY LIFE
THE TASKS THEY USED TO DO WHILE AFRAID OF DOING THEM INCORRECTLY
START TO BE EXECUTED WITH CONFIDENCE
USING GENJI'S WORDS,
YOU WOULD EVEN SAY IT CAN MAKE YOUR MIND RELAX MORE

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN START SLACKING OFF ON THE JOB?
'SLACKING OFF' SOUNDS BAD
HOWEVER, ENJOYING MORE OF YOUR DAY WITH THE TIME YOU SAVED BY DOING YOUR JOB IN A CLEVER WAY,
IS DEFINITELY NOT A BAD THING
TIMES LIKE THAT ARE WHAT MAKES A HUMAN'S LIFE RICH
IF YOU EXAGGERATE, IT COULD BE CALLED LAZINESS, SURELY
HOWEVER, PEOPLE ONLY BECOME MATURE WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO
BALANCE WORK WITH ENJOYMENT
IN SHORT,
IF ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS YOUR JOB, YOU'RE NOT FULLY MATURE
THEN, THAT MEANS THAT CHILD LEARNED HOW TO HAVE FUN DURING WORK
EEH? THAT CHILD WHO IS SO SERIOUS !?
THAT CHILD LEARNED HOW TO INTERACT

EVEN I
HAD FRIENDS AT SCHOOL, BUT BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MY WORK, WE COULD NOT DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP
JESSICA WAS MODEST AND CLOSE TO ME,
BUT DUE TO NATSUHI'S STRICT ORDERS, WE COULDN'T PLAY TOGETHER
BY THEIR AGE, THOSE TWO COULD BE GRAND-MOTHER AND GRANDCHILD. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY COULD RUN AROUND AND PLAY TOGETHER
...
TO ME,
KUMASAWA, WHO WAS ALWAYS KIND TO ME,
LIKE A MOTHER, WAS THE CLOSEST PERSON
SO, THE CHILD DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN KUMASAWA'S HOBBY
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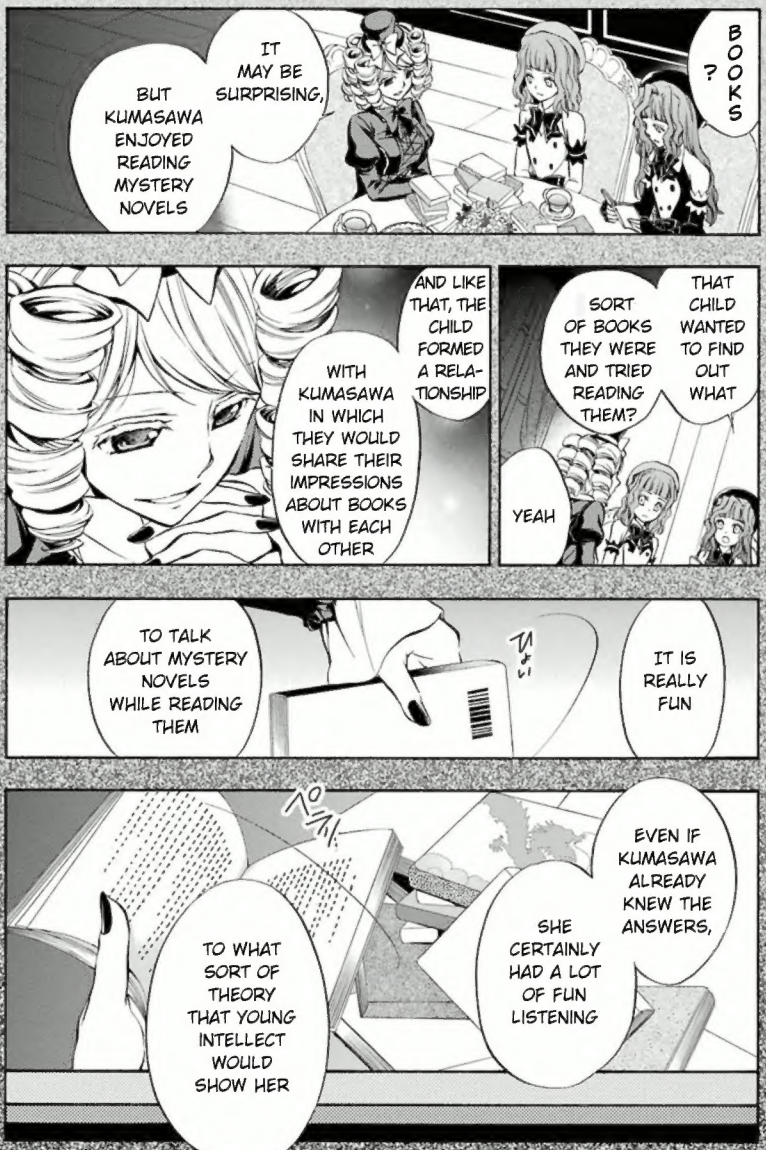
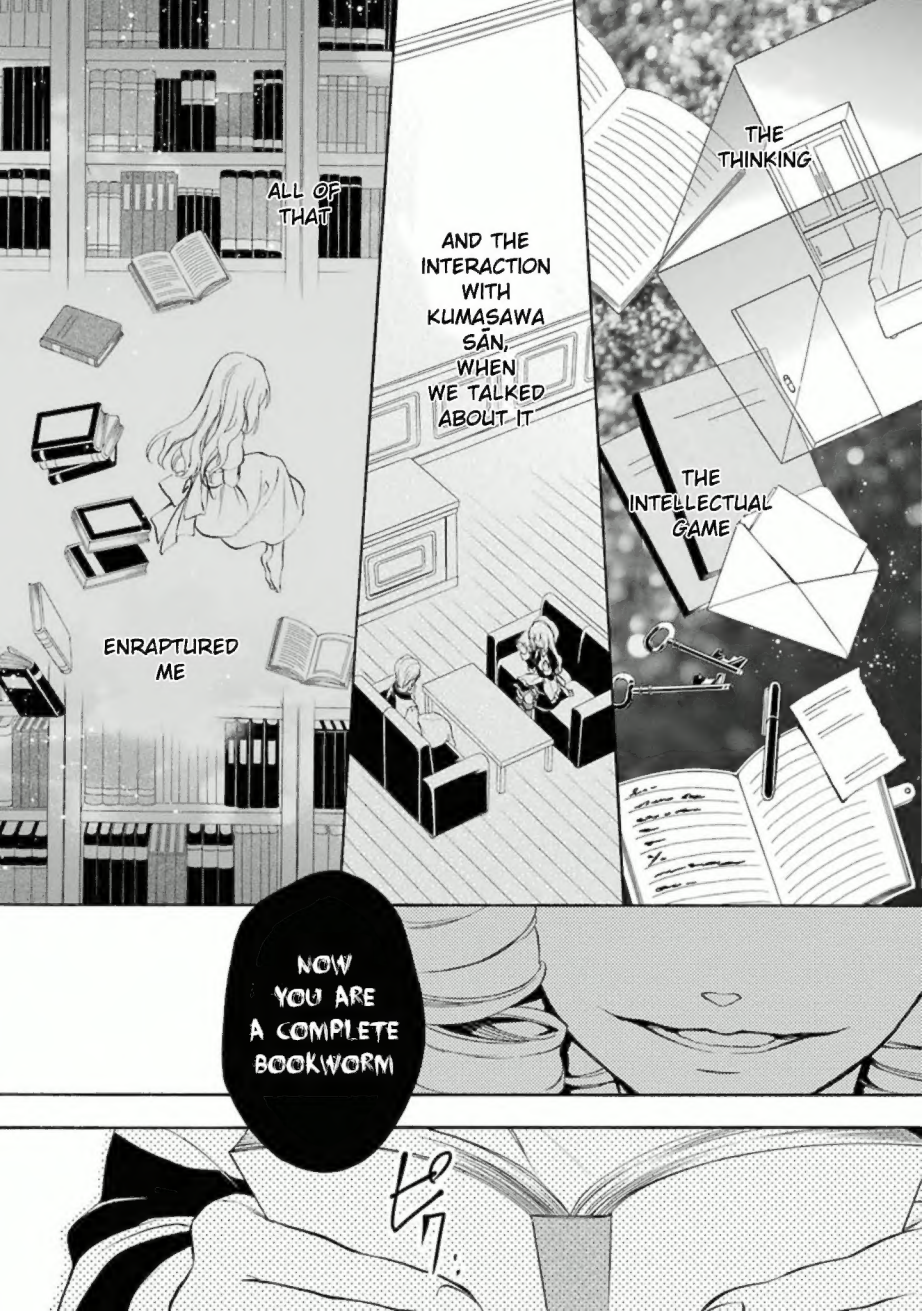

BOOKS?
IT MAY BE SURPRISING,
BUT KUMASAWA ENJOYED READING MYSTERY NOVELS
THAT CHILD WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT
SORT OF BOOKS THEY WERE AND TRIED READING THEM?
YEAH
AND LIKE THAT, THE CHILD FORMED A RELATIONSHIP
WITH KUMASAWA IN WHICH THEY WOULD SHARE THEIR IMPRESSIONS ABOUT BOOKS WITH EACH OTHER
IT IS REALLY FUN
TO TALK ABOUT MYSTERY NOVELS WHILE READING THEM
EVEN IF KUMASAWA ALREADY KNEW THE ANSWERS,
SHE CERTAINLY HAD A LOT OF FUN LISTENING
TO WHAT SORT OF THEORY THAT YOUNG INTELLECT WOULD SHOW HER

AREN'T YOU GOING TO TAKE A BATH?
Chapter 23
Changing Days
BATH TIME'S ALMOST OVER, YOU KNOW ?
... YEAH
... JUST A BIT MORE ...
NOW, ANOTHER INDIAN FIGURE HAS JUST DISAPPEARED ...
• GIGGLE •
YOU FELL COMPLETELY IN LOVE WITH MYSTERY NOVELS
IF YOU READ WITH THAT MUCH ENTHUSIASM,
YEAH...
YOU'LL GET EVEN MORE EXCITED AND WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP
... KUMASAWA SAN TOLD ME THE CULPRIT ALREADY APPEARED IN THE STORY, BUT...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO IT IS
WHAT'S ... THIS BOOK CALLED?
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
'AND THEN THERE WERE NONE'
... IT'S REALLY INTER-ESTING
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A CRIME HAPPENING ON ROKKENJIMA
THAT IS A VERY FAMOUS MYSTERY NOVEL
WASN'T IT A PERFECT CRIME UNTIL THE END, WHEN THE CRIMINAL CONFESSED THE TRUTH IN A MESSAGE BOTTLE?
SHH, SHH!
I'M ENJOYING MYSELF READING, SO DON'T SPOIL THE ENDING!

OK, OK
I'LL GO BY MYSELF LATER ...!
GO TAKE A BATH NOW,
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A BATH, OK?
THEN, SEE YOU LATER
I CAN'T FIND A GOOD PLACE TO STOP, AND JUST KEEP ON READING PAGE AFTER PAGE, WITHOUT REALIZING IT.
BUT EVEN KNOWING THAT,
I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO READ EVERYTHING TONIGHT.
MY NEW JOY, THE MYSTERIES


ALL OF THAT
ENRAPTURED ME
AND THE INTERACTION WITH KUMASAWA SĀN, WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT IT
THE THINKING
THE INTELLECTUAL GAME
NOW YOU ARE A COMPLETE BOOKWORM
ﾋﾝ:

WELL,
IF BECAUSE OF THAT ENTHUSIASM YOU BECOME SLEEP DEPRIVED,
THAT WILL ONLY MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO PLAY PRANKS
SO I HAVE TO FIND A SUITABLE PLACE TO STOP
KUU KUU KUU
...IN ANCIENT TIMES, WHEN I WAS BORN, THERE WAS NO ENTERTAINMENT SUCH AS MYSTERY NOVELS
I'M ONLY GETTING TO READ IT OVER YOUR SHOULDERS,
BUT THAT IS A VERY INTERESTING READING MATERIAL
...
I MUST NOT LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE

BEATO, WHO DO YOU THINK THE CULPRIT IS IN THIS CASE?
THE CULPRIT OF 'AND THEN THERE WERE NONE' ?
YES
I WONDER WHO U. N. OWEN IS
THAT'S THE CULPRIT WHO LURED THE VICTIMS TO THE DESERTED ISLAND
THERE ARE ONLY TEN PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND
AND U. N. OWEN DOESN'T EXIST

I JUST DON'T KNOW
WHO IT IS ...
NO DOUBT THE CULPRIT MUST HAVE STRANDED THOSE 10 PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND AND WAITED SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FOR THEM TO DIE OF STARVATION
NO, THAT'S NOT IT, THE CULPRIT IS ON THE ISLAND
MIXED UP AMONG THE 10 PEOPLE
WHY ARE YOU SO SURE THERE ARE ONLY 10 PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND?
THE CULPRIT IS THE MASTER OF THE ISLAND, RIGHT?
MAYBE THAT PERSON COULD BE HIDDEN IN A SECRET ROOM
OR THE MASTER COULD BE LIKE ME!
MAYBE IT'S A WITCH WHO LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS!
IF I START TO DOUBT THAT, I'M STUCK ...
... THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE, AFTER ALL

NO, NO, IF THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE TO KILL ONLY 10 PEOPLE, THEY CAN'T BE A THOUSAND YEARS OLD
I'D SAY THAT THIS WITCH PROBABLY LIVED ONLY 495 YEARS, AT MOST
CLOSED ROOMS APPEAR OFTEN IN MYSTERY NOVELS
AND THEY ARE USUALLY PRESENTED
WITH THE PHRASE 'IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE DONE WITHOUT THE USE OF MAGIC', AND SO FORTH
... AND HERE IS A WITCH, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES
IT'S A COMPLICATED FEELING
HU

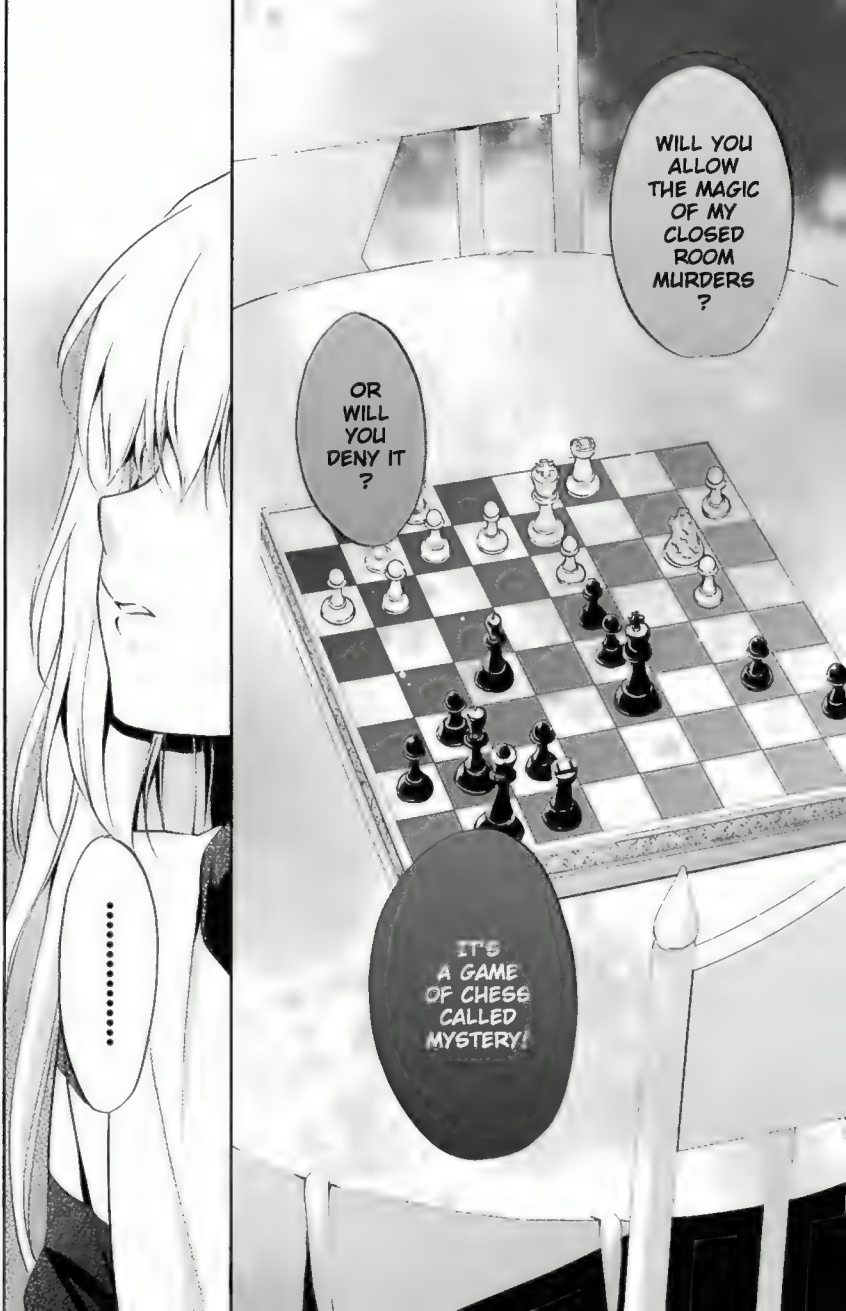
KUU KU KU KU KU!
THESE CLOSED ROOM MURDERS ARE REALLY INTERESTING!
ONCE YOU READ THE ANSWER,
IT BECOMES A HUMAN NOVEL,
NAMELY, A MYSTERY NOVEL
HOWEVER,
IF YOU TAKE OUT THE ANSWER AND GET RID OF IT,

IT BECOMES A WITCH NOVEL,
NAMELY, A FANTASY NOVEL
... HUUMM ?
THAT'S AN INTERESTING INTERPRE-TATION
SO, DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT, IN A MYSTERY NOVEL, THERE'S A PAPER-THIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HUMAN NOVEL AND A WITCH NOVEL?

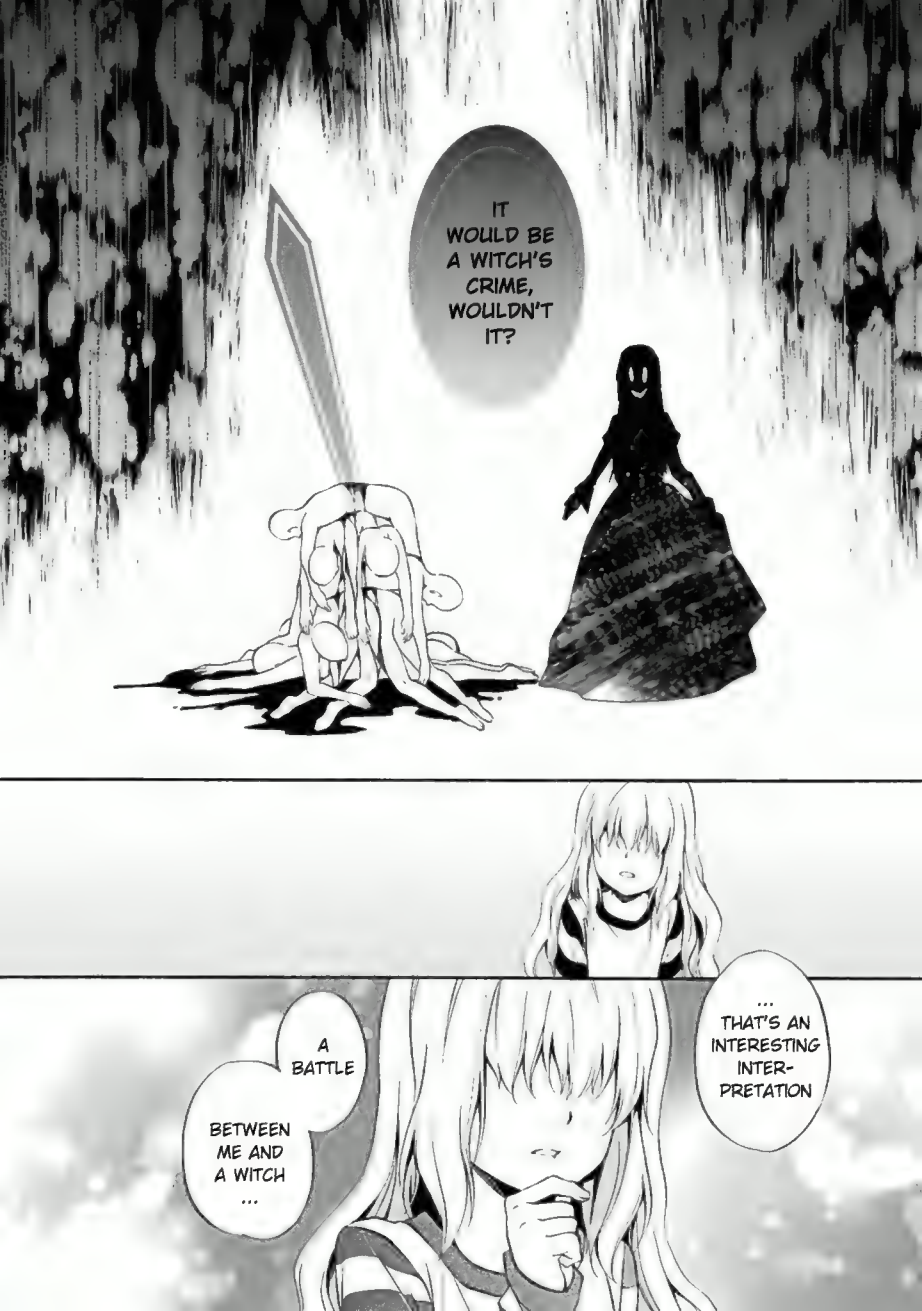
IF THERE IS A TRICK,
IT BECOMES A HUMAN NOVEL
IF THERE IS NOT, IT BECOMES A WITCH NOVEL
SO, JUST BY TEARING OUT
THE LAST FEW PAGES OF THAT BOOK YOU ARE READING,
YOU COULD MAKE MR. U. N. OWEN
INTO A WITCH OF THE SAME LEVEL AS ME ...!

...SO, THE CULPRIT OF A MYSTERY NOVEL WITHOUT AN ANSWER IS A WITCH
... HUH ?
... THAT MIGHT BE SURPRISINGLY WISE
ALL THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD BELONGS TO US WITCHES
IN THAT CASE, I COULD REIGN AS THE CULPRIT
TO ALL MYSTERY NOVELS ACROSS ALL TIMES AND PLACES IN THE WHOLE WORLD
BUT IF YOU REASON IT OUT CORRECTLY AND FIGURE OUT THE WHOLE ANSWER, THEN THE WITCH IS DEFEATED
INDEED, VERY INTERESTING
... KUU KUU KUU

THOSE MYSTERY NOVEL THINGS
ARE REALLY PLEASANT THINKING GAMES
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS A THINKING GAME
YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE BOOK,
CREATE YOUR THEORIES,
AND BATTLE WITH YOUR FRIENDS WHO READ THE SAME BOOK THROUGH ARGUMENTATION
CLOSED CIRCLE
ALIBI
DYING MESSAGE
CLOSED ROOM
PASSWORD
YES,
BUT IT IS ALSO A BATTLE BETWEEN WITCHES AND HUMANS


WILL YOU ALLOW THE MAGIC OF MY CLOSED ROOM MURDERS ?
OR WILL YOU DENY IT ?
IT'S A GAME OF CHESS CALLED MYSTERY!
.....

...
SO, IT ISN'T A BOOK I'M READING,
BUT A GAME AGAINST YOU ?
CORRECT!
EARLIER, SHANNON SAID
THAT THIS STORY HAS THE TRUTH REVEALED THROUGH A MESSAGE BOTTLE AT THE END, RIGHT?
IN OTHER WORDS,
IF YOU CANNOT FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH OF THE TALE UNTIL THEN,
IT MEANS YOU LOSE
AFTER ALL, IF THE MESSAGE BOTTLE DRIFTED SOMEWHERE IT COULD BE EASILY SEEN, FINE, BUT
IF THE BOTTLE GOT SMASHED AND SANK WITHOUT CATCHING ANYONE'S EYE,
THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT CRIME,
A CRIME THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HUMANS
NAMELY,
SURELY,


IT WOULD BE A WITCH'S CRIME, WOULDN'T IT?
... THAT'S AN INTERESTING INTER-PRETATION
A BATTLE
BETWEEN ME AND A WITCH ...

KUU HYAA HYAA HYAA
KUU KUU KUU
STARTING NOW, AND UNTIL YOU FINISH READING THAT BOOK,
I'LL BE LADY OWEN, THE 495 YEAR OLD WITCH!
YEAH, I KIND OF LIKE THINKING THAT WAY
.....

CAME UP WITH A THEORY
... I JUST
BECAUSE I'M READING BOOKS ALL THE TIME
AND DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO YOU
IN OTHER WORDS,
DOES THIS MEAN YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?
THAT, TOO!

HAAHAHAHAHA
...
BY THE WAY,
THIS LITTLE GAME BETWEEN ME AND BEATO OVER 'AND THEN THERE WERE NONE'
And Then There Were None
ENDED UP WITH MY DEFEAT

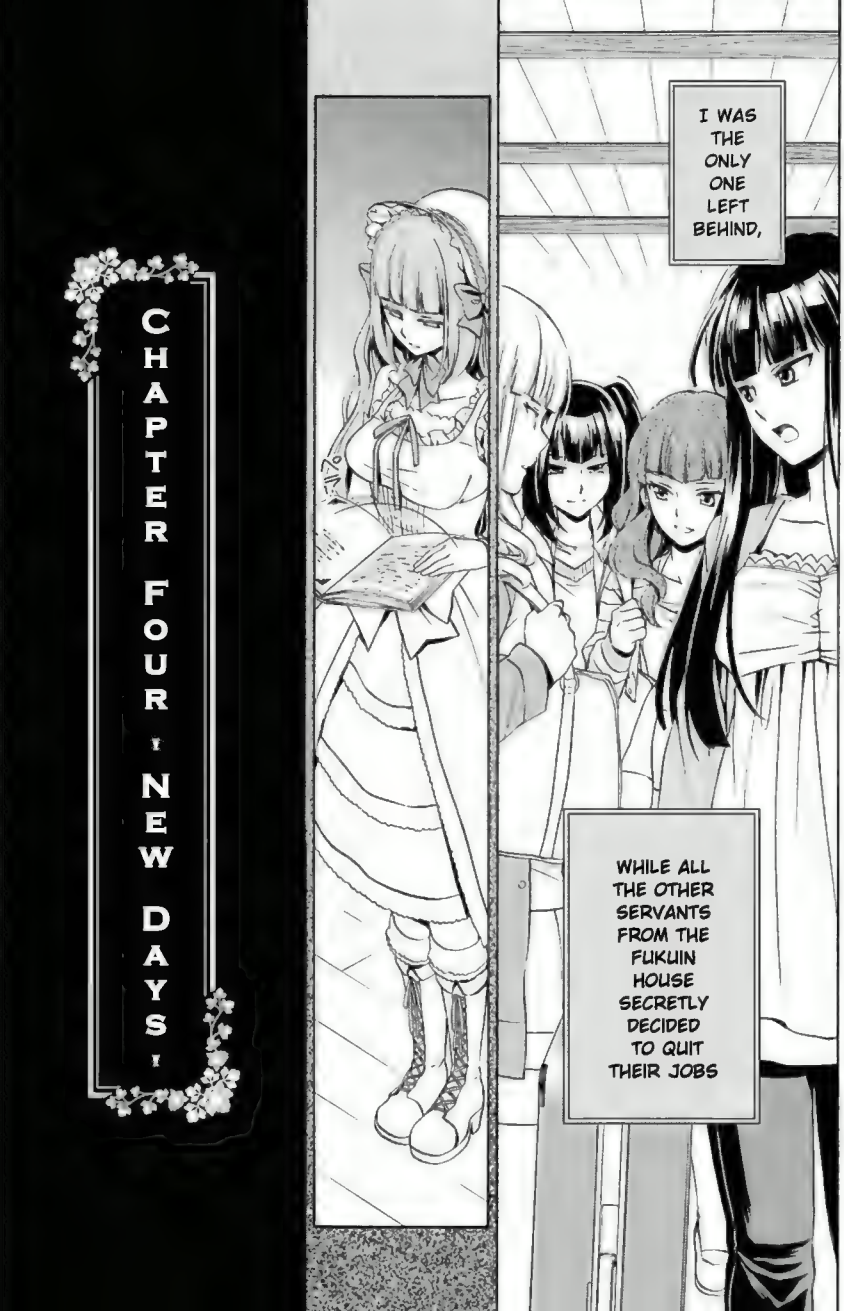
AND HAD TO KNOW THE TRUTH THROUGH THE MESSAGE BOTTLE
IN THE END,
I COULD NOT PROPOSE A SATISFACTORY THEORY
IF THE BOTTLE, BY CHANCE, DRIFTS ASHORE, THERE'S NO PROBLEM
BUT IF, AS BEATO SAID, IT HAD SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH
I WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT
THAT U. N. OWEN IS A WITCH
THAT IS,

I AM INSTANTLY GETTING ENRAPTURED BY THIS NEW GAME
I USED TO THINK THAT MYSTERY WAS JUST ANOTHER MERE GENRE FOR NOVELS
ONCE I READ THROUGH ALL OF THE MYSTERY NOVELS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY,
I START TO READ MYSTERY NOVELS FOR ADULTS
I DISCUSS THEM WITH KUMASAWA
I DISCUSS THEM WITH SHANNON
TO THINK THAT IT CAN BE COMPLETELY CHANGED INTO A GAME WHERE WITCHES AND HUMANS CONTEST OVER TRUTH AND FANTASY WITH SUCH PAPER-THIN DIFFERENCE
AND THEN,

AAH, I AM ONE, AND ALSO MANY

TO THE FUN, INTELLECTUAL GAME THAT ENRAPTURES ME
CHEERS ...
GOODBYE, YASU

DON'T LOSE STUFF ANYMORE
...I
TRY NOT TO KEEP LOSING THINGS
BUT EACH PERSON WOULD DECIDE THEIR PERIOD INDIVIDUALLY
WORKING THERE FOR AROUND 2-3 YEARS BECAME LIKE A TACIT RULE,
WAS NOT SOMETHING STRICTLY DEFINED
THE PERIOD WHEN THE SERVANTS THAT CAME FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE WOULD GRADUATE FROM ROKKENJIMA
THAT YEAR
ARE YOU NOT FORGET-TING ANY-THING?
NO, NO
AMONG THOSE REPEATING DAYS
AND WITH THAT, BIG CHANGES HAD COME


CHAPTER FOUR : NEW DAYS :
I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT BEHIND,
WHILE ALL THE OTHER SERVANTS FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE SECRETLY DECIDED TO QUIT THEIR JOBS

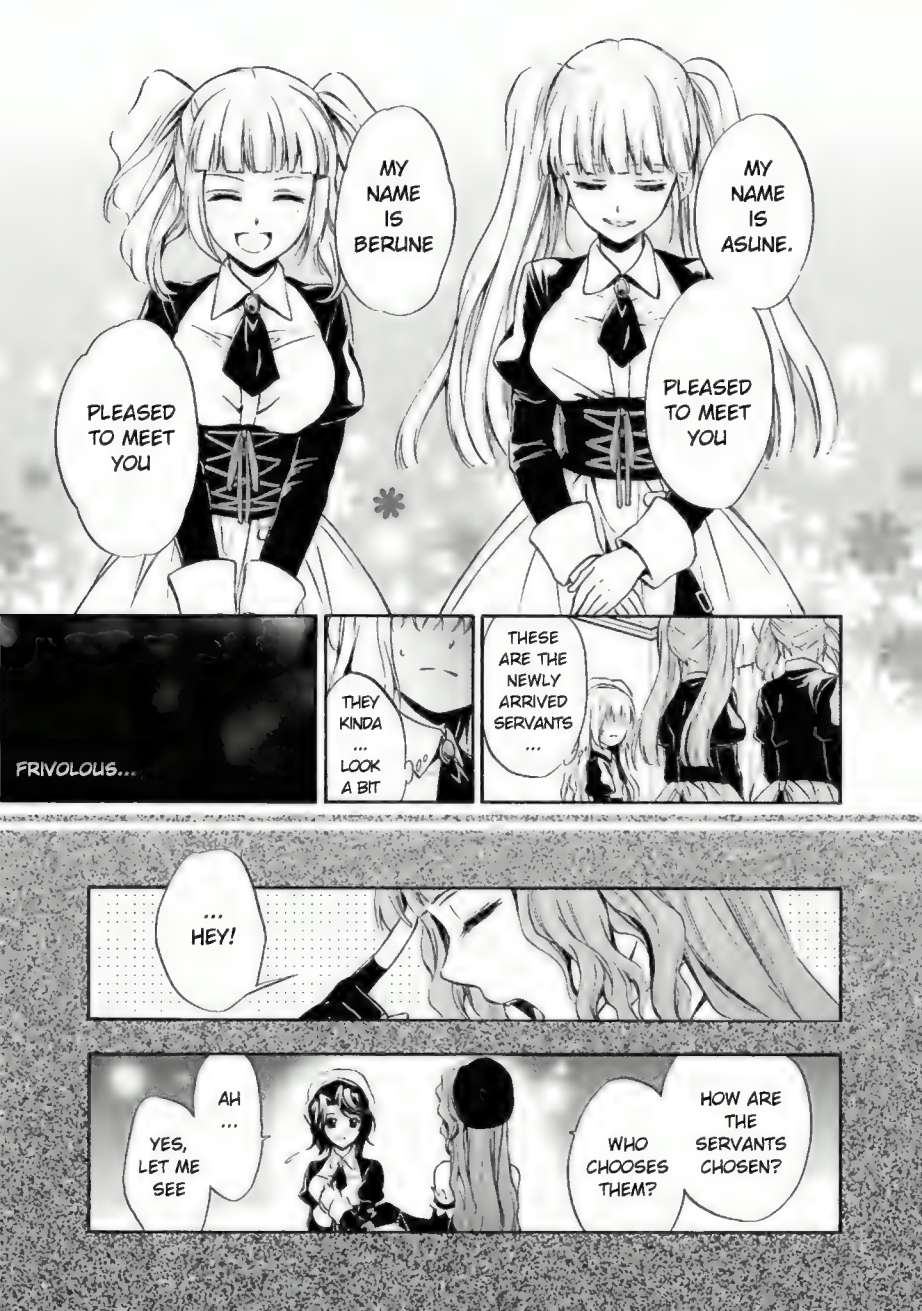
THEN, MAKE SURE YOU OBEY MADAM,
AND DON'T YOU GO CAUSING TROUBLE TO YOUR FUTURE COLLEAGUES
...
THIS IS STILL A MYSTERY.
HOW DID YASU MANAGE TO BE RECOMMENDED TO WORK HERE?
IT'S EVEN MORE SURPRISING THAT MADAM APPROVES YASU'S WORK
THIS MUST MEAN THE KID HAS ENOUGH GUTS NOT TO GIVE UP AND RUN AWAY
STAY FIRM
YA
SU
I-
I
HATE BEING CALLED
YASU
...

... IN THE END,
YOU COULD NOT BECOME FRIENDS WITH THEM
.....
I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO, ANYWAY
LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE NOW
SO BOTH SIDES ARE EVEN
THEY PROBABLY THOUGHT THE SAME.
YEAH

UP UNTIL THE END,
YOU'RE RIGHT
. . . . YEAH
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP WORRYING ABOUT THEM
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER ANYMORE,
I COULD NEVER GET THEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT I COULD STAND ON MY OWN
IT'S TOTALLY POINTLESS
TO WANT TO RECEIVE ACKNOWL-EDGEMENT FROM PEOPLE LIKE THAT
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A WONDERFUL PERSON YOU GREW UP INTO,
I'M SURE THOSE GIRLS WOULD ALWAYS HAVE CONTINUED TO CALL YOU YASU AND MAKE FUN OF YOU
PEOPLE ARE BEINGS THAT CAN NEVER ESCAPE THEIR FIRST IMPRESSIONS
... IT CAN'T BE HELPED
... YOU'RE RIGHT

YEAH,
IT'S AS YOU SAY, SHANNON.
NOW, I'M GOING TO FORGET THOSE PEOPLE ONCE AND FOR ALL
THAT'S FOR THE BEST
YOU ALREADY HAVE WONDERFUL FRIENDS
LIKE KUMASAWA AND ME, RIGHT?
ﾌﾝｽ
NOW YOU JUST NEED TO SHOW THAT
YOU CAN STAND ON YOUR OWN TO THE NEW SERVANTS
JUST REMEMBER
THE PRIDE YOU FELT THAT TIME
FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE THE MOST SENIOR SERVANT
THE NEW PEOPLE WHO WILL BE COMING WILL PROBABLY BE OLDER THAN ME, BUT ...
EVEN GENJI-SAMA TOLD ME TO GUIDE THEM AS THEIR VETERAN

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
I'LL GIVE MY BEST
... YEAH
LET'S GIVE OUR BEST TOGETHER !
YES!
... THEN,
INTRODUCE YOURSELVES


MY NAME IS BERUNE
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
MY NAME IS ASUNE.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
FRIVOLOUS...
THEY KINDA ... LOOK A BIT
THESE ARE THE NEWLY ARRIVED SERVANTS ...
... HEY!
AH ...
YES, LET ME SEE
WHO CHOOSES THEM?
HOW ARE THE SERVANTS CHOSEN?

HOW WERE THE NEWLY ARRIVED GIRLS?
OF COURSE, THEY WERE ELITES OF IRREPROACH-ABLE CONDUCT!
... WELL, I MEAN,
THIS KIND OF THING, TOO, COULD HAPPEN ...
THEN, EVEN IF THEY ONLY ACT LIKE GOOD KIDS IN FRONT OF THE ADULTS, THEY COULD STILL PASS?
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMES AND INTERVIEWS THEM. AND SOME OTHER THINGS,
LIKE THEIR EVERYDAY CONDUCT, COUNT, TOO...
... IN FRONT OF MADAM AND GENJI-SAMA, THEY WERE LIKE THAT, I THINK
BUT ...
WHEN THE SUPERIORS WERE NOT AROUND
I MEAN
THEY DIDN'T LOOK VERY SERIOUS ...
きゃはははは
ははは

EH?
YEEES, I'M SOOOORRY
WHEN YOU'RE DONE USING THE TOOLS, PLEASE PUT THEM BACK IN THE CART
ASUNE SĀN,
YES, YES, AND THEN,
I WON'T LOSE THEM
I NEVER FORGET THE PLACE WHERE I LEAVE THINGS, AFTER ALL
DON'T LEAVE YOUR KEYS LYING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT
YOU'LL END UP LOSING THEM
YOU, TOO, BERUNE SĀN,

A WITCH LIVES IN THIS MANSION, DID YOU KNOW THAT ...?
ARE ... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
KYAA HAHA HAHA !
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT ~~!
OOOH, BEATRICE ~~!
.....
DON'T TELL ME
YOU BELIEVE IN THAT, TOO, SHANNON CHAN?

Y ...
YES, SHE REALLY EXISTS
IF YOU LEAVE THINGS LYING AROUND, THE WITCH WILL PLAY A PRANK ON YOU AND HIDE THEM ...
THAT'S TRUE.
I HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED A LOT BECAUSE OF HER MANY TIMES, SO ...
A WITCH HIDING THINGS
SUCH A THING
COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE HAPPENING, RIGHT?
THAT WITCH THING
THERE'S NO WAY IT EXISTS ~~~
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Episode7:*Requiem of the golden witch*

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http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/